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*Social Democracy and Population.* By ALVAN A. TENNEY, PH.D., Columbia University. Columbia University Press, 1907. Pp. 89.

Defining social democracy in Lowell's phrase as a form of society "in which every man has a chance and knows that he has it," Dr. Tenney inquires how far the realization of such a type is conditioned by population. Rejecting Kidd's hypothesis that indefinite degeneration must follow upon any such easement in the struggle for existence as social democracy implies, the author shows that elimination by starvation or otherwise is only one of the selective processes; that there is another great type, reproductive selection, which depends upon unlikeness of birth-rates rather than on unlikeness of death-rates. There is, therefore, no reason why a salutary selection might not go on briskly in a society which had eliminated brutality from the struggle for subsistence. Society is already interfering with the propagation of the unfit, and there is no reason why many limitations upon the biological process should not be successfully imposed in a democracy.

More striking, however, is Dr. Tenney's inquiry as to the stability of social democracy in the presence of international competition. He shows that no people can realize social democracy without restricting the birth-rate sufficiently to raise the plane of comfort. Now, what will happen when the society in which men are dear competes with the societies in which they are cheap? At times in the past the dear-men society, thanks to its superior civilization, has had the advantage in numbers and weapons. But no such monopoly of an advancement is possible in these days when a superiority in technique, implements, or weapons is so promptly diffused. The prolific people of the Orient imitate our efficiency, but not our standards of living. In Japan or China, a few thousand progressives modernize army and navy, reorganize financial and commercial systems, and introduce railroads, telegraphs, and factories, but certain factors of high birth-rate, ancestor worship, early marriage, low position of women, etc., lie deep in the customs of the folk and change slowly. Presently in the struggle for colonies or markets, a people multiplying at an oriental rate confront the low-birth-rate occidental society with guns just as good but with more men behind the guns. What then? Unless the latter enjoys an easily defended situation it may be forced to the wall and with it social democracy.

Dr. Tenney concludes that the permanence of democracy in the United States is guaranteed by our happy situation between two oceans. Thanks to our natural barriers, we do not need to vie with our rivals in cheapening human beings. How mistaken, therefore, to throw away our advantages by letting in cheap men, or by developing a population dependent upon foreign trade. In his own words:

Cheap labor is the capitalist's demand. But cheap labor means cheap men. Will the country forego an increased gross wealth and accept increased per capita wealth for a smaller number of better men? Will it protect its laborers from the competition of foreign labor not by tariff on their products, but by preventing the entrance of those who will depress the plane of living? Will it extend the principle on the basis of which it has already excluded the Coolie? Will it make the sacrifice of substituting labor saving machinery even when it could produce more cheaply by obtaining cheap labor? Will it consciously deal with the question of population by means of the social limitations within its control? Will it for the sake of geographical unity and the avoidance of international complications give up the Philippines? To gain time for the gradual reduction of the rate of population increase, will it maintain the Monroe doctrine with a view to sending whatever future surplus population may arise in this country into South America, there in turn to develop American ideals of social democracy in the safety of a second geographical area? Above all, will it do these things before the increase in its own population makes necessary *volens volens* an entrance into the world's struggle for foreign markets in competition with peoples of a lower plane of living?

The sample given indicates the originality, foresightedness, and statesmanlike breadth of an essay that no scholar or public man can afford to overlook.

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN